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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DEC. 24.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING. Foreign,-Fifteen students were burned to death

in Constantinople yesterday. = = The Crown Prince arrived in Berlin. - Moody and Sankey closed their mission at Stepney. - The employes of the Limerick gas-works have gone on strike. = The Czar is still suffering from the accident caused by being thrown from a sled. An earthquake shock has been felt in Lisbon.

DOMESTIC.-Severe cold weather prevailed in New-England and New-York, yesterday, and snow fell in Virginia, North Carolina, and in many of the Northern States. - The building on the Yale College grounds known as the "Cabinet" was destroyed by fire, yesterday. - Mrs. Jessie Mc-Gee, age 101 years, died at Kappa, in Illinois, on Saturday. - The British steamer Istrian, which arrived in Boston yesterday, reports encountering an abandoned bark at sea. - A boiler exploded near Allentown, New-York, yesterday, and two men were killed.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-Further disclosures are made concerning Mr. Thompson's department, showing the outrageous extravagance prevailing there and the way in which he quarters his friends on the city treasury. —— Yesterday was the coldest day of the winter. —— Gerald Massey lectured in = The Rev. R. Heber Newton spoke on the legend of Jacob. —— Monsignor Capel con-cluded his lectures in New-York. —— There was a meeting at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church to advocate church extension. Turkeys were sent by a special train to the employes of the Long Island Railroad. - Dr. Dio Lewis spoke against Prohibition.

THE WEATHER .- TRIBUNE local observations indicate cloudy and warmer weather, with snow possibly turning to rain, followed at night by clearing weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 10°: lowest, 4°: average, 83°,

Evidently this is not to be a green Christmas. The weather is seasonable; seasonable for enjoyment and health, and certainly cold enough to make the occupants of warm and nappy homes think of the poor.

The miners in Westmoreland County, Penn., have raised a cry against the Hungarians who have settled among them which sounds painfully like the anti-Chinese cry of the Pacific Slope. They have issued a proclamation to whom it may concern, declaring that the Hungarians must go because they work for little, live on little, and yet save a little. Such conduct the other miners consider immoral in the last degree, and they do not intend to stand it any longer. Hence the proclamation. The principle laid down by the recent Labor Congress in Paris, that well-to-do workmen must never give their less fortunate fellows a chance to better their condition, seems to be finding favor and ready application in this country.

Another candidate for the Speakership of the Assembly has followed Mr. Theodore Roosevelt's example, and declared himself in favor of a legislative investigation of the affairs of this city. This is Mr. Titus Sheard of Herkimer county. He thinks searching inquiry is especially called for by THE TRIBUNE'S exposures of corruption in the Department of Public Works. This is the kind of talk we like to hear from candidates for the Speakership. The man who gets that place will have it in his power to appoint a committee that will make honest and efficient inquiry into the grave charges against Mr. Thompson, or one which will show the accused Commissioner undue favor.

The last report is that England has informed the Khedive that it will not attempt to reconquer the Soudan, nor allow Egypt to do so; but that there is no objection to any other Power's assuming the task so long as Tewfik incurs no expense. This seems to let Turkey in. That is the only Power which has shown any desire to undertake the job and pay the cost of it. And even when the Porte says it will carry on the war at its own expense it means that it will do so if England will make a new Turkish loan. Turkish bonds are not highly esteemed by the English just now. Until the conditions of the problem change, therefore, the Mahdi's chances of holding the Soudan are fair.

The Parisians are wild and foolish with delight at the victory of their troops at Sontay. They speak as if it were a great defeat for the Chinese, and as if it would certainly frighten the Government at Pekin out of all idea of resisting the demands of the Republic. The fact is, that there were only Black Flags and Anamese troops at Sontay, and as Tseng, the Chinese Ambassador, points out, his Government has always made a great distinction between an attack on Sontay and Bac-Ninh. It is to be city not merely an opportunity to feather their legislation, the business of the country is visibly

has more sense than the press and the idlers of Paris. If it has it will appreciate the diplomatic advantage which Admiral Courbet's success gives it, and hasten to extricate the Republie from the very unpleasant predicament into which this wild Tonquin expedition has led it.

Judging from the number of persons who visited the Bartholdi Statue Loan Exhibition yesterday at the National Academy of Design, there are certainly many people in New-York who favor the opening of art galleries and museums on Sunday. The rooms were well filled all day; but if the visitors were working people in the accepted sense of the term, the working people of New-York dress much better than is generally supposed and know much more about art than they get credit for. Moreover, they hardly seem to be in crying need of Sunday privileges of this kind. As a matter of fact we suspect that the visitors were people who would not have been driven to liquor stores for amusement yesterday even if the Academy had been kept closed as usual. However this may be, it is to be regretted that what is termed a liberal movement in behalf of the working classes in this city should be the cause of unpleasant feeling between the Academicians and the managers of the Exhibition.

AN INFLUENCE THAT MUST BE BROKEN. There is probably no public officer in the Nation who has the right to expend, with so little restriction, such an enormous sum of money as is annually placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of Public Works of this city. Outside of New-York it is not likely that an officer as faithless as Commissioner Thompson has been shown to be could retain his control over such a fund for a single week. But in this city the influence of such an official is far-reaching. It stretches into Grand Jury rooms and into executive offices, and is not without representation on the bench and in legislative halls. The fear of reprisal from a person wielding such a great political power not only overawes and influences the official activity of the city, but reaches to Albany.

It is certain, however, that such an influence, no matter how exerted, cannot long stand up against the power of right. The people of this city will not calmly submit to see their money recklessly squandered by Commissioner Thompson or anybody else. It is clear from the revelations printed in The Tribune to-day, and in previous issues, that there is scarcely any end to the methods followed in the Public Works Department of evading the law and squandering the people's money.

One of the first things the Legislature should do is to repeal the act which authorizes Commissioner Thompson to expend \$1,000,000 annually without any restriction further than that it shall be expended to increase the water supply. As is shown to-day, this fund is being mismanaged and wasted in an extraordinary manner. A public work that was started under it, and which Allan Campbell said would cost the city a little over \$2,000,000, is being made by Commissioner Thompson to cost over twice that amount. Large sums are annually expended for travelling expenses, professional services and in other doubtful ways. But this is the same story that has been told, from the official records, in regard to other funds.

With the experience the city has had with Tweed and Thompson it ought to be able to secure legislation that will protect it from further abuses of this kind. The same loose laws that allowed Tweed to steal millions have caused a loss to the city of other millions under his successors. It is time that such laws were repealed. If this is done, the nutriment will be taken from politicians of the Thompson school, and their organizations will fall to pieces. When that end is accomplished it will be possible for honest and deserving men to get into office without bowing the knee to a political boss. An economical and efficient city government will then be possible.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LONDON,

ried on with increasing energy and bitterness in the press of that city. That the incorporation of the huge metropolis will be effected is the general belief, even those who most oppose it appearing to thing it hopeless to do much more than register their protests. The old and present form of government, though it certainly has answered its purpose remarkably well, considering its clumsy and makeshift character, must, in the natural course of evolution, be at some time superseded by a single, centralized organi zation. The Vestries, though often ridicaled, and not seldom justly, have at all times given the people of London a fair measure of order, comfort and convenience, and thus far (and this is of itself a strong point) there has been scarcely any misappropriation of public funds. It is true that the Vestries have not been intrusted with the administration of any extensive improvements. Undertakings like the Thames Embankment and the metropolitan sewerage system have been in the hands of the Board of Works. This Board has always been composed of men of high administrative ability, and it has never been tainted by partisanship. But the rapid spread of democratic theories and the adoption of American political methods have concentrated a formidable influence, all of which is being exerted in furtherance of the incorporation scheme. The Liberals are strongly in favor of it, partly because all the tenets of their party lead them to regaid it as a movement in advance, and partly because they expect through their organization to strengthen themselves greatly by it.

The opponents of the measure argue that the putting of such enormous administrative powers in the hands of one body of men will be dangerous in many ways. They point to the examples of Paris and New-York, and say that under the proposed municipality London may become a focus of sedition, like the first-named of these cities, or a focus of corruption, like the second. The Saturday Review says: "The corporation of New-York expends between six and seven millions a year, and neglects all its administrative duties." Other papers intimate that if the municipal government has the command of the police force, some 12,000 disciplined men, it may, in the hands of some bold demagogue, some day undertake to coerce Parliament. Of course all the possible objections are put in the strongest light, and very lurid pictures are drawn of the London of the future. According to these prophets of evil it will be a combination of Paris under the Commune and New-York under the Tweed régime, and the general effects will be heightened by a stimulating dash of dynamite politics.

No doubt there are dangers involved in the change, but our English cousins must have States notes and \$172,000,000 of certificates, strangely lost confidence in themselves if they to be redeemed by \$217,000,000 gold. While are daunted by these difficulties. It does not | Congress has been waiting to get itself organseem to have occurred to them, however, that | ized, the paper currency has been inflated \$10,one of their greatest dangers will be the almost irresistible temptation offered by the prospect of plundering London to our local political chevaliers d'industrie. There are many of these who might see in this incorporation of the great

Tweed's time, but also a magnificent opening for a crushing vengeance upon the hated Saxon.

BULLDOZING IN THE SENATE, A strange report is current that the Southern bulldozer is about to make himself felt in the United States Senate. It is said that the nomination of Mr. Emory Speer to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of G eorgia, which is now before the Scnate for confirmation, is to be delayed by Southern Senators, and, if possible, defeated. Mr. Speer has committed various crimes which have aroused the righteous indignation of Southern Democrats. First, he broke loose from Bourbonism, and ran for Congress as an Independent Democrat. To complete the enormity of his offence, he was elected. After his term was finished, he accepted this appointment as District-Attorney, which was tendered to him because Republican talent in that region was scarce, and he seemed to be the kind of man who would prosecute election cases. When Mr. Speer had taken this place, his last estate, in the eyes of the Bourbons, was worse than his first. But he went still further. He prosecuted seven Georgia Democrats for bulldozing, and had the effrontery to convict them. Worst of all, five out of the seven confessed the crime, which convinced the Bourbons that Mr. Speer was even a more desperate character than they had thought him. Finally, he was assigned by the Government to aid in the prosecution of the South Carolina election cases, and his presumption was such that he actually invaded that proud Commonwealth for the purpose of arraigning certain of her citizens at the bar of justice just like criminals, although they had merely been committing a

few genteel election frauds. It is said that the people of South Carolina were greatly incensed, and put upon Mr. Speer every slight which social intolerance could devise. Also that the two South Carolina Senators, Messrs. Hampton and Butler, propose to delay his confirmation, and even prevent if, if they can. We cannot believe that they will be allowed even to postpone confirmation. Let the majority take up Mr. Speer's name and pass him. It will be a strange thing if the confirmation of a Government officer can be made to wait in the Senate because he has done his duty in punishing election frauds.

MR. DORSHEIMER'S PLAN. Congressman Dorsheimer's plan for dealing with the problem of preserving the Adirondack forests seems likely to commend itself to the good sense of the Legislature. Public sentiment is now in a fair way to be aroused to the importance of saving the woods, and the chief question is as to the wisest means to be chosen. Mr. Dorsheimer, whose connection with the Ningara Commission has led him to give special attention to these subjects, proposes that the Legislature shall appoint a commission to select such forest lands as it is advisable for the State to buy, and that the question shall be submitted to the people at the fall election whether they will authorize a loan to pay for such lands as the commission shall deem it wise to purchase.

This seems to be a judicious measure. The appointment of the commission by the incoming Legislature will insure a prompt inquiry. The submission of the question of purchase to the people will place the responsibility of the whole matter upon them. If they vote against purchase, that mandate is final. If they vote in favor, legislators would not need to trouble themselves with any questions of personal responsibility for the plan. The only work of the Legislature then would be to scrutinize carefully the recommendations of the commission, and so act as to carry out the instructions of the people without placing an unnecessary burden upon the Treasury. The probability is that the people would vote in favor of the purchase. The State is practically out of debt. The need is urgent. There seems to be no way for the State to save the forests except by owning the lands, and a system could be adopted of purchasing large and important tracts in turn, which would make the increase in the debt gradual. The operation of such a scheme would The controversy over the proposed erection of need to be carefully watched for jobs, but with a municipality in London continues to be car- proper supervision it ought to be possible to dminister it honestly.

There are great advantages in the idea of submitting the proposition to the people-one of principle, others of policy. It is right that a question of such importance, involving a considerable expenditure of money, should be submitted to a special vote of the people. If they vote in favor of the purchase, the rest of the work will be easy. A bare proposition to the Legislature to buy Adirondack lands, coming without any definite approval from the people, will fill the souls of timid legislators with vague terrors. Many of them will fear the charge of extravagance from demagogues, if they vote for it, and will tremble for their reelection. If it comes to them with a vote of the people in its favor, they will be relieved of all responsibility, and have only to consider the

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

The holidays are at hand, and the stringency which often precedes the close of the year does not appear. Money is abundant at low rates. and the banks reported on Saturday an increase of \$2,438,000 in reserves, and a surplus of \$6,894,750 above legal requirements. The surplus at this time last year was \$1,600,000 less, and yet was thought extraordinarily large, and it was then falling and is now rising. The superabundance of money in the banks is explained by the operations of the Treasury; the balances December 1 and December 22, as reported from Washington, were:

Gold coin and December 1. December 22. \$216,722,751 \$217,121,367 Inc. \$398,616 604000 \$416,72,701 \$217,121,307 Inc. \$498,616 Silver dollars and bullion. 192,297,225 123,454,748 Inc. 1,057,523 Fraction' silver 26,983,651 27,075,662 Inc. 92,011 U. S. notes.... 56,992,775 56,442,245 Pcc. 469,559 Total cash ... \$123,000,402 \$124,004,022 Inc. \$1,087,620 Gold certific'ts \$1,987,920 \$42,061,022 Inc. \$1,987,920 out. \$59,205,130 \$63,349,540 Inc. \$1,141,410 Total certfs. \$161,828,231 \$171,975,561 Inc. \$10,147,330 While increasing its cash on hand only one million, and that wholly in silver, the Treasury has increased the volume of outstanding paper notes by ten millions in three weeks, four millions in gold notes and six millions in silver notes having been issued in excess of the amounts paid into the Treasury. This inflation of the paper circulation goes on while the power of the Treasury to meet its obligations is not gaining at all. The increase in gold held by the Treasury is more than covered by the decrease in amount of United States notes held; the silver dollars and bullion and the fractional silver are entirely unavailable for the redemption of Government obligations; and there are now outstanding about \$300,000,000 of United 000,000, and yet it is reported that Mr. Carlisle will entrust the chairmanship of the Committee on Coinage to Mr. Bland, the author of the first and worst silver bill.

Otherwise than in its dependence upon bad

Steel Association, looks for no further depression in that important branch, and has advices from all parts of the country that the workmen are consenting to the reductions that are made necessary by the state of trade. President Clark, of the Thomas Iron Company, says the pig-iron trade is looking fairly, and that his company will start three furnaces January 1, making 16 in operation against 22 last New Year's, but complains that prices of steel rails are depressed by sales at very low figures. The cotton and woollen manufactures are also reducing wages or curtailing production to some extent, but there is a general feeling that the industries are in a more healthy condition already. The holiday trade has been large, and the increase in numbers of failures reported is wholly in small and unimportant firms, while the close approach of yearly settlements without embarrassment is generally regarded with satisfaction. The truth is that there has been a great deal of apprehension, half superstitious and half rational, about the business of the last half of 1883. Many men had no better reason for alarm than that the last great panic was in 1873. Others foresaw with clearness the operation of causes which have made the half year generally disheartening, but lacked confidence in the ability of the country to support the strain. Thus there are many reasons for rejoicing that we are safely over the year 1883.

It is said with truth by The Commercial and

Financial Chronicle of Saturday that "the least 'favorable feature in the commercial outlook 'is the speculation in produce, and more especially in wheat, which has resulted in the 'latter being piled up in stock until there are now over 35,000,000 bushels in sight." This accumulation has been caused, in great measure, by an elaborate campaign of statistical mendacity and misrepresentation, in which the demand from every quarter has been exaggerated and the supply looked at through the wrong end of a telescope, until believing holders have become convinced that Europe must, sooner or later, pay us what price we please for our wheat. Now the official report by the Bureau of Statistics, which was issued last week, shows that for five months of the new fiscal year the exports have actually been 34,892,469 bushels of wheat, against 67,481,659 for the corresponding months of last year. This does not look like an extraordinary demand from abroad. Moreover the official records prove that in September, when the exports were less than export price was just the same for the two years, and in October it was also just the same, but the exports declined from 10,000,000 bushels in 1882 to 6,587,000 in 1883. These things do not indicate the near approach of starvation abroad. As to the crop and surplus of this country, it is noticeable that all the arguments for high prices begin by discarding the official statements of the Bureau of Agriculture, and substituting others which make the supply

a great deal less. The stock market has been kept on the rack by the disagreements of managers of railways. The latest report as to the Iowa pool was that the Burlington had determined to build another line to cut into the traffic of the Union Pacific. But railroads are not built in a day, and the speculations of managers do not often last long enough to make the construction of a new road a helpful adjunct. The disagreement of Eastern trunk lines may or may not be terminated by the latest order of the Executive Committee, which goes into effect to-day, but that order was certainly calculated to prevent further cutting of rates this winter. It is noticed that the four great trunk lines all made larger earnings in excess of operating expenses in 1882-3 than in 1881-2, and the aggregate of their net carnings was \$17,988,088 last year, against \$43,-198,218 for the previous year. The New-York Central increased in net earnings about 1112 per cent, the Baliimore and Ohio about 1612 per | left behind in Europe. cent, and the Pennsylvania and Erie each about 7 per cent.

NOVEL VIEWS OF BUDDHISM AND BRAH-MANISM.

The Nineteenth Century Club was the scene of an animated discussion of Buddhism the other evening and some novel views on the subject were advanced. Undoubtedly the religion of five hundred nillions of people is deserving of study, and when its investigation is conducted in a scientific spirit much may be learned from it. But no good can be expected from attempts to belittle whatever there is admirable in that or any other faith, or from as sertions such as were made on this occasion, that the teachings of Buddha were "intensely selfish," that he was moved by "a cowardly desire to escape existence," and that he preached a "pessimistic doctrine of extinction as the best fate for the human oul." For none of these statements are warranted by what is known of the facts. The three essential features of Buddha's code were, self-control, kindess to other men, and respect for all manifestations of life. He taught that conduct was the sole means of salvation, and thereby he destroyed reliance upon sacrifice. As to the doctrine of Nirvana, it is a safe assertion that it has been misunderstood and misinterpreted by Western Orientalists, and that it does not mean annihilation. As taught by Buddha himself this doctrine, says Beal, " seems to have included in it no more than the enjoyment of a state of rest consequent on the extinction of all causes of sorrow." Another high authority, W. W. Hunter, says that the mission of Buddhism " was to make men more moral, kinder to others, and happier themelves; not to propitiate imaginary deities." The Indian, Ceylonese and Chinese Buddhists them-selves do not admit the Western interpretation of Nirvana, and as to the other views put forward at the Nineteenth Century Cinb, neither Eastern nor Western scholars would acknowledge them,

An attack was also made upon Brahmanis which was very contemptuously spoken of. But Orientalists know well that not only India but the whole world is greatly indebted to Brahmanism, which with all its defects and shortcomings has been, for more than three thousand years, the chief agency of progress and enlightenment in India. The Brahman, says Dr. Hunter, " is an example of a class becoming the ruling power in a country, not by force of arms, but by the vigor of hereditary culture and temperance." And he adds that " the paramount position which the Brahmans won resulted, in no small measure, from the benefits which they bestowed. For their own Aryan countrymen they developed a noble language and literature. They were not only the priests and philosophers, but also the law-givers, the administrators, the men of science and the poets of their race." The philosophy they built up is certainly a profound one, and Buddhism has modified and improved their religion, Both Buddhism and Brahmanism merit the most careful examination by all who are interested in the growth of religions, and it is a fortunate circum stance that of late the general interest in this class

of inquiries has much increased. But it is necessary to point out that many of the opinions expressed at the Nineteenth Century Club the other evening were altogether behind the times, and appeared to be based upon that general Western ignorance of Oriental religion and philosophy which prevailed a generation ago. The more that is known of these religions the more reasonable they appear, and when their suppored doctrines seem to run counter to any pronounced tendency of the human mind, such an appearance should suggest doubt as to the correctness of the interpretation placed on them, rather than justify a sweeping denunciation of the doctrines as irrational and absurd.

The merchants and insurance men who appeared before the Sinking Fund Commissioners on Friday

served the respectful attention which they received. The need of more water in the business part of New-York is undoubted, and it may be that a good way to get it would be to allow the Ramapo Valley Company to furnish the supply But the hesitation of the men who form the company to let themselves be known, naturally and properly excites suspicion. If they are responsible persons, and if there is no job in this business, why do they keep themselves so persistently in the dark? There is nothing to be ashamed of in a legitimate business venture, even if there are millions in it. It is too much to expect the city to go into an undertaking of this kind with its eyes shut. The Commissioner did wisely in laying the matter on the table until they were informed who is behind it.

While the use of steam from the cars to melt the snow on the Elevated Railroads works well for the companies, it is not altogether satisfactory to the public. To passers-by who do not happen to be provided with umbrellas or rubber coats, the shower-bath furnished is not a pleasant incident to travel.

Standholders in Fulton Market complain that their retail business has largely decreased since the Bridge was opened. This is rather unfortunate, considering that the city has been to a large expense in rebuilding the market. But it is not probable that the wholesale trade will be affected, although when proper transit facilities are provided for passengers on the Bridge, and the tolls are reduced, as they ought to be, it is likely the Fulton Marks: retail trade will suffer much more than it has yet. The wholesale fish trade at this market has greatly increased in recent years and continues prosperous. About 1,000 fishing smacks are engaged in this trade. From 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 pounds of fish are annually sold by weight in Fulton Market, besides 8,000,000 by count.

The unanimous decision of the trunk line committees, giving Commissioner Fink power to reduce rates on through east-bound and west-bound freights whenever, in his judgment, "the authorized rates are not strictly adhered to, or are evaded to an extent requiring action thereon," is obviously a preventive measure. The reasoning is that no road will cut rates if it knows that rates on other roads will be reduced as much without delay. The defects in the plan are two: it may be presumed by any transgressor that the Commissioner will not get knowledge of the transaction, with such certainty as to justify him in ordering a general reduction; or it may be presumed that, in any case, there will be considerable delay, that more or less time will elapse before knowledge of the violation can be gained by the Commissioner, or that then the offending road can escape penalties by restoring rates and promising "not to do so any Nevertheless, the restraint which it is now attempted to exercise is confessedly the only one within the power of the pool, as it is now organized. mit themselves once more to the policy of maintaining rates and punishing offenders, even while, by that very act, they confess that some of them have

A large sum of money, \$5,348,223, has been expended for public and private charities in this city during the present year. In four years the expenditures in this city for that purpose have increased 31 per cent, and in the same time in Brooklyn they have increased nearly 70 per cent. The per capita expenditure in Brooklyn, however, is now only \$2 33, while it is \$4 11 in New-York. No doubt some of the money expended in this way s wasted, but no part of the sum contributed to the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Association is in danger of being misplaced. The \$263,402 required to make the hospitals self-sustaining during the next year ought to be contributed without trouble during the present week.

NOTES ABOUT INDUSTRY.

ENEMIES OF LABOR.-The organization called Knights of Labor seems to be laboriously earning a different name. It is supporting the glass workers of Pittsburg in their prolonged strike, which gives increased employment to labor in Europe, and taxes every man who buys a pane of window glass here, without justification or hope of success. Now the Knights, being entirely benighted, resolve to petition Congress to prevent the importation of labor contracted for abroad, Having gained the shelter of this country themselves, these men want to shut the door against fellow-laborers whom they have

PACIFIC COAST TRADE,-There is no rose without of the Northern Pacitic Railroad; and strong as this statement seems, it is supported by the report that three steamers a week were required for the traffic northward four mouths ago, whereas one steamer every five days now suffices, As this loss of traffic is probably due to direct trade of Oregon and Washington merchants with the East via the new road, the loss of the San to dealers somewhere else and to the Northern Pa cuic. It may be well to remember, when this and similar complaints of loss at certain points are heard, that transfer of business does not imply loss in the aggregate, but generally cheaper goods for usumers. The currents of commerce usually seek the lines of least resistance.

SENSIBLE MINERS.—One body of coal miners has shown more than usual pluck and good sense-those of the Third Division, Pittsburg, who were ordered to strike by their masters of the trades-unions, but refused. It is stated in dispatches that there had been some apprehension of disturbance on account of this strike, but there will hardly be trouble of a violent sort between the men and their would-be masters. When the men prefer work and wages to idleness and no wages, the trades-union leaders find their occupation gone. It was said in Pittsburg dispatches that the strike was desired in order to compel the giving of equal wages to the miners at all the mines, but those who have the best chances and get the best wages do not care to be idle in order to deprive their employers of power to pay more than other employers pay. On the other hand, those who get the lower wages probably see that they have employment at all only because on such terms the mines that are not advantageously located can be kept in operation, whereas, with a cast-iron rate of wages at all points, some of the mines must stop and some of the men be thrown out of employment.

COKE-MAKING.-The coke-makers in and about Pittsburg have determined to reduce production to the extent of one day each week. There are 9,549 ovens in the district, of which 8,403 are in blast, The new establishments in West Virginia are able to send as good coke as that of Connellsville to Western points, and the competition from that quarter probably has something to do with the dalness about Pittsburg, but the chief cause, of course, has been the partial suspension of iron manufacture in that region.

COAL OUTPUT.-The quantity sent from anthracite mines thus far this year has been 30,403,081 tons, against 28,065,602 tons to date last year. There has been an increase of over 2,000,000 tons in the Wyoming regions, over 400,000 each by the Delaware and Hudson and Delaware and Lackawanna, and nearly 500,000 by the Pennsylvania; and about 600,000 from the Schuylkill district, nearly all by the Reading. The delivery from the Lehigh district shows a decrease.

SALES OF PUBLIC LANDS,-The sales of land by the Government are rightly mentioned by The Financial Chronicle as evidence of enormous development and growth Western States and Territories. The sales amounted in the fiscal year 1882-'83, to 16,830,455 acres; the previous year, to 12,500,000, once before to 9,000,000 acres, and in no other year exceeded 8.600,000. The increase last year was mainly in Dakota, where 6,689,595 acres were taken, in Nebraska 1,315,104; acres, in Minnesota, 1,292,969 acres, in Washington Territory 763,779 acres, and in Orehoped therefore that M. Ferry's Government nests as they have not been feathered since improving. Secretary Swank, of the Iron and in behalf of the Ramapo Valley water scheme de- gov 499,770 acres-in the five States and Territories

10,561,217 acres, against 7,073,168 the previous year, and 4,599,961 in the fiscal year 1881, when the total disposals were less than half as large as they were last year. Thus about three-quarters of the increase for two years, and more than half of the total disposals for three years, appear to have been in the regions directly affected by the opening of the Northern Pacific. But it is proper to remember that the great frauds under the homestead and timber acts, which have recently been disclosed. renderit probable that a part of the land taken in the Northwest will not be immediately brought into use by settlers.

PERSONAL.

Rhea doesn't like Paris. "I tell you, madam," she said to a Philadelphia Press correspondent, "Paris is enfer! You say in English, hell!"

Miss Barbara K. Peissner, a granddaughter of the late professor Tayler Lewis, of Union College, author of "Six Days of Creation," will be married on December 27 at Schenectady to Ira Nelson Hol-lis, U. S. N.

Mr. Long, the Academician, who painted the "Flight into Egypt," has a splendid suburban home on Hampstead Heath, and is an enthusiastic tricy-cle rider. He is a handsome man, tall, finely built, with gray hair and a closely cut beard.

The name of General Thomas B. Keogh was sent to the Senate by the President, a few days ago. for United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, to succeed Colonel Robert M. Douglas, son of Stephen A. Douglas. Colonel Douglas was appointed Marshal during President Grant's term, over seven years ago, and vain efforts were made for a long time to secure his removal. General Keogh, since the war, when he settled in Greensboro, N. C., has been one of the State's most active Republicans. He has held only one Federal office, a Registership in Bankruptcy. He was for a time Secretary of the Republican National Committee, being succeeded by ex-Senator Dorsey in 1880. Since, General Keogh was defeated for Congress in the Fifth North Carolina District.

Speaking of Prince Alexander of Balgaria, the Novoe Vremya, of St. Petersburg, remarks that life at Sophia-where there are no theatres nor beautiful women in society-is dull to him, and the work is hard. So, to get a fortune and return to Berlin, where he enjoyed life, he wanted first to marry one and then another Russian princess, but both princesses denied their hand and their millions. Then the Prince formed the plan for the coup d'état. When this coup d'état was telegraphed to Russia, When this coup d'état was telegraphed to Russia, the characteristic resolution eusued, that "Wo regret it, but we must support the Prince." . . . At last the Prince could endure it no longer: he asked at Moscow for a million; this sum he did not receive, and consequently he was displeased, and turned against Russia. It should be noticed that the Prince before his election as the "Little Czar" of Bulgaria was already known at St. Petersburg. When once he was spoken of as a candidate, the elder Count Adlerberg called out, "God save us from intrusting such a post to such a mau."

The Pall Mall Carette relates a stary recently told.

The Pall Mall Gazette relates a story, recently told in Paris, of an incident which some years ago occurred to Victor Hugo. The poet was going to the Voltaire celebration, but when he reached his destination the cabman who had brought him there would not accept his fee; but Hugo put a 20-france piece into his hand and went away. The cabman at once mounted his box, galloped to the office of the Eappel, and subscribed 20f. for political prisoners, signing his name as "Charles More, coachman; price of a drive paid by V. Hugo." His enthusiam for the poet was so great that for hours together he would remain near his residence to be at hand when the old man should want a carriage. He hand when the old man should want a carriage. He could never be persuaded to accept a fee, and Victor Hugo, who wished to give his admirer a pleasure, invited him one day to dinner, where, besides intimate family friends, Anguste Vacquerie, Paul Meurice, E. Blum, and others were present. Charles Mors was quite at his case, and after dinner rose to make a rhymed speech, "for," he said to the astouished assembly, "I am a poet like M. Hugo, and make poetry for my own entertainment." It was for a considerable time that the cabman-poet rode his Pegasus, which sometimes became rather unwieldy, but nevertheless gave great satisfaction to its rider. "Mr. Taft, our Minister to Austria, never allows a

"Mr Taft, our Minister to Austria, never allows a barber to touch his face," said a knight of the razor in Cincinati recently. "He never wears a beard, and always shaves himself. He has an assortment of a dozen or fifteen razors. He is a crank on the subject of buying razors. He has given me directions to buy for him a razor whenever I find a good one, no matter what it costs, Just before he started for Vienna I sold him a Sheffield blade for \$15. But you ought to see him shave. He always has the morning papers brought to his room before he gets up. Just as soon as he moves iuto his trousers, even while his suspenders are dangling its thorn, and every improvement for the benefit of many is sure to operate as a disadvantage to a few. The merchants of San Francisco complain that their trade with the territory to the north of minutes when he again gets up and lathers. Then he takes his array of cutiery and begins stropping them. Presently he lays them down and lathers again. Then the papers, the razor, the lather; and so he spends an hour, lathering, stropping and reading, and reading, stropping, and lathering until his tough beard is made soft and yielding after which he seizes the razor he believes to be the harvest and scrapes one side, and takes the next sharpest and scrapes one side, and takes the next best razor and scrapes the other. By this time breakfast is ready."

GENERAL NOTES.

For some time past there have been startling rumors in Cleveland to the effect that the Rev. Mr. Davis, a prominent Presbyterian clergyman of that city, was about to introduce many Romish innovatious in his church. It was affirmed that he would soon appear habited in the vestments of the Catholic Church, and that crosses and incense would shortly be introduced in the Sunday service. The rumors have turned out to be only sanday service. The rumors have tarmed ont to be any a bit of mallelous tritle-tattle. Mr. Davis recently expressed a wish to wear the cape which is often worn by Presbyterian elergymen, but on learning that some of his people would object, he wisely retrained from doing so. That, and the fact that an ornamental cross was painted on the wall back of the pulpit, were the sole foundations for much unnecessary commotion.

The fool who thinks it is funny to play a practial joke has come to grief by so doing in Albany. He was in dry-goods store, and saw a gentleman whom he recognized as an acquaintance. He stepped up quietly behind his friend who was standing by the counter, and took a small package from his outside pocket. The joke ought to have come in here, but it didn't. The clerk saw the affair, and, thinking he had detected a thief plying his amar, and, tunking he had detected a time plying his vocation, at once took the supposed culprit by the collar. The joker explained his joke, and called on his friend to help him out of the scrape. But to his consternation, the gentleman proved to be an utter stranger to him. Every one decided that the poor joker looked like a harden-d thief, and a policeman was at once sent for. After much difficulty, however, the loker convinced the minish of the law that he was a respectable man, and he was released.

A professor at the University of Pavia has published a statistical account of the comparative mortality of European armies, from which it appears that in the Prussian armies in time of peace 57 in every 10,000 soldiers die annually, in the English 81, in the French 92, in the Austrian 112, and in the Italian 116. The low rate in Prussia is the more remarkable masmuch as a considerable number of the deaths in her armies are suicides. The professor points out the curious anomaly that the rate of mortality among soldlers of the different countries is in inverse proportion to the rate of mortality among the civilians of those countries. Of course French, and more especially English, soldiers are con-stantly stationed in unhealthy colonies, a risk which German soldiers are spared; but this is not thought to be sufficient to justify the discrepancy, and it must be in-ferred that the German soldiers are better cares for.

British journals bring interesting details of the industrial census of India in 1881. The total population of the country is 253,891,821, and of this enormous number only 85,544 persons are British-born subjects, and 56,646 are soldiers and 12,088 females. Practically less than 17,000 male civilians, wielding an army of 56,000 men, control the vast empire number of Europeans returned is only 146,612. The oc cupations of 102,629,000 persons are defined, and of these 71,199,000 are engaged in agriculture or the care of animals. In industrial occupations 21,041,000 persons are engaged, 12,859,000 males and 8,182,000 females. The workers in cotton and flax number 5,485,455; in clothing, 2,815,280; in vegetable food, 3,165,429; in stone, clay and earthenware, 1,850,974; in houses and buildings, 836,453; in gums and resins, 762,526; in bam-boo, cane, rush, straw and leaves, 680,732; in gold, silver and precious stones, 472,956; and in iron and steel only 473,361. Engaged in the work of government, National, local and municipal, are 1,843,000 persons, of whom 315,000 are classed as belonging to the army. The professional classes embrace 1,451,000 persons. It is inter esting to notice how widely the proportion of persons engaged in these several departments in India differs from that which prevails in Western nations. On the other hand, it will be a surprise to many to learn that in the